Limitations - $

SWCD Act- It puts a priority for Soil & Water, but we have taken a lot for granted.

* To make the state realize how important we are. We can be replaced but it will be at a tremendous cost to consumer.

* Limitations - 1/2 the employees we had 5 years ago. = less people to get face time with farming individuals (cooperators)

Strength & Challenges

A) strengths: i) ability to bring local (to each Co) support, to each Co's geography.
2) Good relationship w/ local farmers
3) ability to work special projects
4) Employees

B) Limitations i) Funding & employees
2) Involved directors

Limitations

FUNDING

- lack of support from Dept. of Ag
- Uninvolved directors
- Lack of lobbying (Lobbyist)
- Lack of promoting ourselves
- image to partners
-

Do Not Open District Act

Strengths -
- longevity of districts
- Fate for conservation in each county
-

*Strengths - Local trust, and familiarity

*SWCD Act - Not real familiar.

*Advertise what we do and what it would look like if we weren't there.

*The only way to position ourselves for funding is to get Chicagoland buy in.

Strengths & Challenges

- funding - sources - contribution Agreement
- Strengths
- ? benefits of Act

Get back to county funding follow MO get out of General Budget → model

- Need to rebuild technical expertise of staff
- Employee retention = limitation of technical staff

Recommendation
statewide benefits policy

Limitation - Retaining Staff
- not offering affordable healthcare premiums

~~Challenges~~ strengths

- Experience & Training in our area
- Local Control - Locally led
- we know the county & Landowners we are the 1st people they come to Developed good relationship with community
- the strength of AISWCD is the strength of the Districts
- Do credit for what we do. they

- importance of our being here to legislature
- get off general budget dedicated or guaranteed funding so we are not as ~~easily~~ easy to cut funds off
- more Cost Share w/ NRCS

Strengths:
- Technical Expertise
- Local Initiatives w/ Statewide mission
- Cxn w/ the public
- Cxn to state, federal agencies

Limitations:
- employee retention
- expertise

Funding:
- benefits

COULD USE FUNDING FROM SOMETHING LIKE A PERCENTAGE OF SALES TAX NOT POLITICAL MOTIVATED.

FUNDING NEEDS TO BE EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED FOR ALL COUNTIES.

A.C.

Strengths

County SWCD - long term NRC
Drill Rental program
Financial cushion
Conribution agreement w FSA
CRP seeding program
3 young Associate Directors

Challenges

INSURANCE
Keeping Employees
Enough Funding for full STAFF

~~Limitations~~

don't know who we are etc, Lack of identity. Need marketing.

~~Do~~

FUNDING? DO NOT WANT ANY MORE TAXES

STRENGTHS -

LIMITATIONS - FUNDING, HIGHER UP GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM

IL SWCD IMPACT - HELPED WITH COST SHARE ON PROJECTS, (WATERWAYS - STRUCTURES ETC.) RENTAL EQ.

1- Strengths- a lot of experience
2 " - became finance stable

Challenge - No Support from State
- No money
- No credit for what we do -
- they don't know who SWCD is
- Farm Bureau gets all the Credit

Sustainable funding - dedicated source - ? tax

Strengths - locally led, dealing with local concerns.

* cost No state Pension

limitations - Staffing + funding - loss of experienced employees

Dist Act - very little No taxing authority -
No Regulatory "

Chicago Board of Trade for on each transaction
Water meters for
1/4 t sales tax on food
Strengths: local control
Limitations: Lack of public knowledge of our existence
Benefits - will take legislative action to end

1- Strengths - Had to become self sufficient to survive
2- Strengths - due to having employees that have been seasoned they are trained
3- Locally led by producers / farmers
4- ~~Strengths~~ Good relationship with local community & organizations

Challenges:
1- Lack of Funding
2- Farm Bureau is kicking our butt accross

Strengths	Limitations
- training	funding - Can't put conservation on the ground w/out money.

Strengths
- The Boards are local.
- SWCDs are of a grass roots organization
- No expenses for office space

Strengths
- locally led
- In most cases we know our county & the landowners
- We have developed relationship over time with our producers & landowners

Limitations
- Funding or lack there of
- Limited number of employees

Challenges
- Hiring and/or keeping qualified employees.
- Lack of support from Urban Legislators
- No taxing authority
- Lack of communication with the urban legislators
- Funding

Strengths + Challenges

1L SWCD District Act: Need to actually read. Have someone highlight main facts for others whom haven't read in 20 some years.

to the legislative people that we visited. They see FB in their office several times a week SWCD once a year.

Topic 1

Keep lines of communication open. Local Representatives congress men - etc.

FUNDING OUTSIDE OF STATE GRANTS AN IMPOSSIBILITY FOR SWCDs.

LIMITS OF DISTRICT ACT PREVENTS SWCDs TO HAVE LEVYING POWERS FOR FUNDING.

BULLETS & MORE "TO THE POINT" INFO. ABOUT DISTRICT ACT PROVIDED TO DISTRICTS.

BENEFITS FOR QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE
A CONSTANT CHALLENGE.

Strengths - Qualified & Dedicated Employees
- Local contacts & relationships
- Knowledge of local concerns
- Good reputation
- Autonomy
- Assess & Address local needs
- Freedom from ~~oversig~~ restrictive oversight
- Relationship w/ NRCS - low overhead